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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/895,213	07/02/2001	Shigeo Yoshii	0819-0592	8545

22204 7590 09/12/2002

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EXAMINER

MONDT, JOHANNES P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2826

DATE MAILED: 09/12/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/895,213	YOSHII ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Johannes P Mondt	2826	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 June 2002.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 2-11 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>5</u>	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 2-11 have been withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 9.

Information Disclosure Statement

The examiner has considered the items listed in the Information Disclosure Statement of Paper No. 5.

Drawings

2. Figures 17-20 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated. See MPEP § 608.02(g). Proposed drawing corrections are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The specification is objected to as failing to delineate what is meant by "nearly" in the phrase "nearly equal to a composition of the active layer" (page 7, line 20). See also page 19, line 13; page 22, line 17. The adverb "nearly" must either be omitted or delineated.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. ***Claim 1*** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In particular, the use of the adverb "nearly" in the phrase "nearly equal to a composition" is indefinite as to how close to said composition is acceptable as being "nearly equal".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. ***Claim 1*** is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior Art as Admitted by Applicant in view of Fujii et al (5,476,811).

Applicant admits as Prior Art (cf. page 2, line 20 – page 3, line 13 and Figure 17):

A semiconductor light-emitting device comprising: first (902) and second (905) semiconductor layers each of a first conductivity type; a third semiconductor layer (903) of a second conductivity type provided between the first and second semiconductor layers; an active layer (904) provided between the second and third semiconductor layers, the active layer emitting light with charge injected therein from

the second and third semiconductor layers (inherently the respective functions of the active layer, and of the emitter and base layers).

Prior Art as admitted by Applicant does not necessarily teach a graded composition layer provided between the active layer and the third semiconductor layer to have a varying composition which is nearly equal to a composition of the active layer at an interface with the active layer and to a composition of the third semiconductor layer at an interface with the third semiconductor layer. However, as witnessed by Fujii et al (cf. Figures 3 and 4), the use of a graded composition layer (46) (cf. column 7, lines 28-31) abutting the active layer (48) (cf. column 7, lines 33-34) such that the composition of the graded composition layer is nearly equal to the composition of the active layer at the interface with said active layer and to a composition of a doped semiconductor layer of second conductivity type (44) (cf. column 7, line 14) abutting said graded composition layer at the interface with said doped semiconductor layer abutting said graded composition layer has long been standard in the field of semiconductor light-emitting devices. As shown in Figure 4, inter alia the valence band energy varies gradually between (48) and (44) (cf. column 7, lines 59-67).

Motivation for including the teaching by Fujii et al in this regard in the Prior Art as admitted by Applicant is the possibility to construct a light-emitting device with low current threshold (cf. column 2, lines 1-14). The inventions can be combined by epitaxial formation of a graded composition layer (cf. for instance title and abstract in Fujii et al). Success in the implementation of this combination can therefore be reasonably expected.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Saeki (6,350,997) (cf. abstract, columns 10-11); Kim (5,159,603) (cf. abstract and columns 3-4).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Johannes P Mondt whose telephone number is 703-306-0531. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 - 18:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nathan J Flynn can be reached on 703-308-6601. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.



NATHAN J. FLYNN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

JPM
September 2, 2002